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RADON POTENTIAL IN SOUTHERN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Map scale 1:100,000

by
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SUMMARY: The Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey (DOC/CGS) has completed a project to compile a radon potential map and report for southern Los Angeles County, California. Zones in southern Los Angeles County where geologic conditions and available data suggest elevated indoor-radon levels will be more commonly encountered are indicated on this map. The map zones show high, moderate and low radon potential areas. Also indicated are areas where follow-up indoor-radon testing is recommended. Although the southern Los Angeles County Radon Potential Map zones show areas where elevated indoor-radon levels are expected to be more common, the map cannot be used to determine the indoor radon level of a building. All radon zones contain some indoor-radon measurements above and some below the U.S. EPA recommended action level of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/l). The only way to determine the indoor radon level of a building is by testing the building for radon, irrespective of the radon zone it occurs within.

The map radon potential zones were developed using indoor radon data from the Department of Health Services Radon Program, NURE project airborne radiometric data from the U.S. Geologic Survey, and existing geologic mapping. The process involved comparing indoor radon data and airborne radiometric data with geologic units in the southern Los Angeles County area using a geographic information system (GIS). With this approach, percentages of indoor-radon data at or above 4 picocuries per liter (≥ 4 pCi/l) were determined for the geologic units in south Los Angeles County. Areas where airborne radiometric data equal or exceed 5 parts per million equivalent uranium (≥ 5 ppm eU) were also identified. Those geologic units with higher percentages of ≥ 4 pCi/l test results and/or ≥ 5 ppm eU measurements were used define locations of the high and moderate radon potential zones. The 53 page report accompanying the map provides detailed information about how the radon zones for the Southern Los Angeles County Radon map were developed and their significance.

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